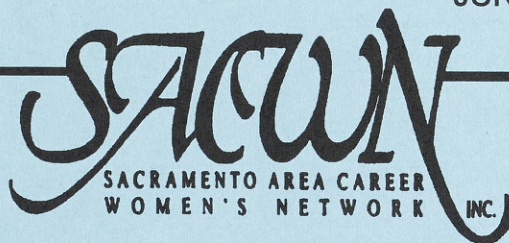
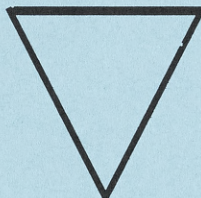


JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1998  
VOLUME 14 NO.6



**THE NEW SACWN: A SUMMER BRAINSTORM**  
**BY ROSEMARY METRAILER AND JANE IRWIN, YOUR**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**

A plan for a new era in lesbian networking in the greater Sacramento area is about to emerge. The networking opportunities being offered during through the summer and fall this year are different from the norm: Be a part of a millennium change. Rebuild SACWN with us. If you have a vision for a vital lesbian networking organization for the 21st century, please join us. Combining our visions, our organization can become a mural, a rich and colorful composite where every lesbian can find others who share her interests and her goals. What will the future hold? Every possibility we can conceive and every actuality we can put our energy behind. Together we decide what we want, and then we make it happen.

August, September, and October will be a time of information-gathering, assessing and planning for SACWN. For many years, SACWN's administration has been performed by the Outsourcing Management Group's Sandy Virago. With Sandy moving on to other activities now, we are taking the opportunity to set goals and initiate new approaches. Instead of simply moving on to another person or company doing the same job for SACWN as Sandy did, we will be taking a fresh look at how everything about SACWN works.

Continued on page 2



**DO YOU WANT TO HELP NOW**  
**INSTEAD OF WAITING?**

Call SACWN (916) 451-8034 if you want to join us in the next few weeks with one of the following:

- Survey preparation, distribution, tallying, and reporting
- Database conversion and cleanup





## From the Steering Committee

We will be devoting ourselves primarily, over the next few months, to one focussed set of activities: Rebuilding a SACWN responsive to the changing networking interests of lesbians in the greater Sacramento area. One newsletter will be published — this one. Generally, events and activities will not be held during this time. Of course, Special Interest Groups will continue to decide, within the groups, what activities they will hold this summer and fall; so if you have questions please check with the group leader as shown on the SIG page of this newsletter. The SACWN telephone number will stay the same. The address has changed, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

We value lesbian entertainers performing in Sacramento, and know that events sponsored by SACWN are a primary venue for them. We are committed to continuing — and expanding — this tradition of providing quality entertainment by regionally and nationally acclaimed lesbian comedians, musicians, and other performance artists. This is the first thing to change: We are pleased to announce that Kelly Conway of Lavender Underground Booking & Productions will produce future SACWN entertainment events. With a professional booking agent and concert producer like Kelly, we anticipate delicious evenings of most exciting entertain-

ment. You will be hearing from Kelly as her many tantalizing event ideas begin to materialize this fall.

Now, on to the process of future change! The rebuilding activities center on the active input and involvement of every lesbian in the Sacramento area who has a vision for what lesbian networking will look like in the 21st century. That means you. We are pleased to note that, while this effort to rebuild SACWN is being driven by the efforts of volunteers, we are fortunate to be assisted in the assessment and planning process by Barbara Webster of Webster Strategies, a management consulting firm specializing in nonprofit organizations.

The focused set of rebuilding activities taking place this summer and fall will look like this:

**July:** Basic internal assessments will proceed the public ones. This month, we will be looking at the nuts and bolts, such as how the phones are answered, how many calls we get and about what, how we respond to inquiries, how membership requests and renewals are handled, how the books get kept, and how publication of the newsletter happens, in practice. We will also be looking at what works and does not work in our organizational leadership structure, and how communication occurs within the decision-making process. At this stage, only temporary changes will be put in place to carry us through the planning process, described below.

**August:** In the past, we have occasionally surveyed members about what they like or don't like, primarily focussed on the type of events and activities subscribers to the newsletter want to see offered. Now

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### SACWN STEERING COMMITTEE

**Rosemary Metrailer**, Corporate Coordinator  
(916) 447-7255  
**Jane Irwin**, Finance Coordinator

**SACWN, Inc.**  
7485 Rush River Drive, # 710-300  
Sacramento, CA 95831-5260  
(916) 451-8034

**SACWN, Inc.** newsletter is published monthly, ten times a year. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission from **SACWN, Inc.** Letters to the Editor, articles and community announcements are welcome. Materials submitted may be edited and shortened based on available space. Deadline for submission of material is the third Friday of the month before publication. For more information, contact Barbara Webster at 451-8034.

### SACWN ADVERTISING RATES

Type	Member	Non-Mem
Business Card	\$25	\$37
3 1/4 x 1 3/4		
Two-column ad	\$40	\$60
4 1/2 x 2 3/4		
Quarter page	\$50	\$75
3 1/2 x 4 1/2		
Half page	\$90	\$135
7 1/8 x 4 1/2		
or 3 1/2 x 9 1/2		
Full page	\$160	\$240
7 1/2 x 9 1/2		
Classified ads (per word)	.40	.60
Discounts	1 year 20%	
(prepaid)	1/2 year 10%	

Advertisers are not necessarily lesbians. We do not warrant the services or products of advertisers.



## Special Interest Groups - August, 1998

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are small groups of women who meet around a common interest. It's a great way to meet other lesbians in an informal environment. Just give the facilitator a call, and she'll be glad to tell you all about the group and their activities.

### TOP 10

TOP 10 is a group of women over 50 and women who love women over 50! We meet at least once a month at restaurants around town or at home parties. Come join us for an evening of fun! For more information, please call Paula at 967-0560.

### RAINBOW CAMPERS

If you want to go on any of these campouts, call the Wagon Master who will tell you what the deposit is (usually first night's fee) to reserve a space on the trip. Young girls and boys under 8 are welcome. The schedule of the campouts is as follows:

August 21-23 Wright's Beach  
On the Coast; Carolyn &  
Nancy 961-4722

September 25 - 27 Coloma,  
On the American River; Mary  
723-5269

October 17, Sacramento -  
A planning meeting for 1999.  
Denice and Linda 641-8565  
November 13-15 - Rollins Lake,  
Colfax; Joyce 929-3074

### THE BOOK GROUP

Interested in participating in a discussion of books? Call Joy at 452-5513 to put your name on the list to be notified of future meetings.

### NEWCOMERS

New to the community? New to SACWN? Call Diana 487-3124 to find out about the upcoming meeting.

### 1/2 FAST HIKING GROUP

We're an active, well-organized group which gets together once a month to go day hiking. Please call for details. Join us! Ann 443-3638 and Sue 927-8320.



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# SACWN UPDATE

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we will survey every lesbian we can reach. And this time, we will ask a much broader range of questions about what is important to you and what you want in a lesbian networking organization. We will send at least one survey to everyone on our mailing list. If you want to help us, please get a bunch of surveys, and give them to every lesbian friend and acquaintance whom you see, talk to, or correspond with. Let's get those fax machines hot and bothered all over town with this thing. Photocopy a few yourself, and hand them out at Monarchs games, the softball field, or your garage sale. Try to get them to the oldest, youngest, most closeted, least closeted, most active, least active, happiest, saddest, funniest and most serious lesbians you know. Help us hear from everybody.

**September:** Survey results will guide a strategic planning process. We will hold several planning sessions, based on how many people express interest in participating. In one planning session we will review the mission of SACWN and the environment in which it is and will be operating. In another session, goals will be set, and some specific objectives will be decided that can help us meet those goals. If several areas of overwhelming interest are identified in the surveys — such as activities for the sports-minded, women who run businesses, life-long learners, on-line networking, or community service, for example — a forum will be held to identify goals and objectives for these. It is likely that, for ease of coordination, only those people who have actively expressed interest will be contacted to participate. So don't wait for an invitation. Call and leave your name, address, and phone number with a message that you want to volunteer to help organize and implement this process, or to participate in the planning sessions. Or, fill out the section asking for participation on the survey when you get it.

**October:** Our new newsletter will fill you in on the results of the planning process. Efforts will be well underway toward making the changes suggested in the surveys and prioritized in the goals and objectives of the new plan. Our new administrative structure will be established by this time, too.

One key value will guide this process: Every lesbian who reads the SACWN newsletter and every lesbian who attends a SACWN activity or event forms the vitality of the organization. So stop those voices in your head that are saying I'm too young, too old, not professional or career-oriented enough, don't know any-

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**AUGUST 8-10 - GAY AND LESBIAN SIERRANS - EASTERN SIERRA BACKPACK. CALL RAY 916/421-6209.**

**AUGUST 13 - LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP IN AUBURN AT THE DEWITT CENTER FROM 7-9 P.M. FOR INFORMATION, CALL 530/632-7080.**

**AUGUST 22 - BLISTERS FOR SISTERS 5 KM "EQUALIZER" RACE, A BENEFIT FOR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER FOR WOMEN. CALL 916/447-2786 FOR INFORMATION.**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 8 P.M., LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY AT THE STATE THEATER IN MODESTO. PRESNETED BY BACW CENTRAL VALLEY. CALL 209/529-1434 FOR INFORMATION.**

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one, only know a few people, have never been very involved, haven't been involved for years, have done too much with too little result in the past, only have a couple of ideas about what would make SACWN better, and have never been involved in strategic planning or organizational change. If you have something to tell us about how SACWN can meet your needs, now is the best time to share that. When we gather what we have learned about what the greatest number of lesbians want most in their networking organization and form our collective vision for the new millennium, we want your voice and your vision to be part of that, too.

**A special note for current and prospective subscribers:** As a big thank you for your continued interest and involvement, subscription dues for current members are FREE for calendar year 1998. If your renewal is due, don't pay it: We'll send you a notice when the time comes. If you have already paid for 1998 membership, your next due date will be extended. People interested in becoming subscribers will also receive 1998 newsletters for free. In exchange we hope you will kindle some excitement, and join us in making SACWN a vital and responsive organization for the new millennium.



By Sandy Virago

*At the beginning of the end, I thought that I would just make myself the Successful Sacwnite, since I had begged so many women (about 55 actually) to let me interview them and tell their inner thoughts in this column. But now at the end, it feels so self-serving to write the article about myself. Is that how you felt, my 55 gracious women, when you saw the article in print?*

*Then I remembered how people would comment on the articles, that they really enjoyed reading them, so, here goes, I'll try. It clearly will be the last time I have this much control, so better do it now.*

I was born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. My family had German roots but we weren't plain or Amish.

My parents married during WW2, both young teenagers. Daddy went off to war, Mother had me. They divorced when he got back. At 18, they had only me in common. So I was a child of a single mother, bumped around from aunt to grandmother, mostly raised by my aunt. Mother remarried when I was 14 and within 15 months I had a stepfather and a half brother and sister. It was during this period that I acted out the most!

I tried several careers including floral design and computer programming and moved to Philadelphia, married, mostly tried to grow up, and then the women's movement happened. I was close to 30, not at all satisfied with my life, and feminism spoke to my heart.

Several things happened in my magical 30th year. I was widowed. I fell in love with a woman. And I began to acknowledge that I was a feeling person who could take control of her life. My volunteer work lead to the job as executive director of a rape crisis program and I became very involved in advocacy, for victims, for persons less fortunate, for minorities, for people with disabilities, and finally for myself. I moved to Harrisburg and directed a statewide advocacy program for people with developmental disabilities.

At 37, I finally got a college diploma and got to know my dad, as he was dying of cancer. He told me I could move if I didn't feel free in Pennsylvania.

I always hated the weather, the bigotry, the close-mindedness, so I began thinking of moving to California. The day Daddy died, I gave notice and the trek began.

Arriving in 1982, I worked again in advocacy, first with the Sacramento Women's Center, then I directed the Sacramento Human Rights Commission and for five years, served as the director and lobbyist for a statewide association of programs that work with persons with

developmental disabilities.

It was in 1990 that I thought about owning my own business. I was in the middle of a Master's program in Public Administration, burned out from futile fights for funding from the republican administration and at the end of a relationship. Everything came together to make it seem possible.

And so Outsourcing Management Group was born. My company contracts to run associations, mostly trade associations, but with SACWN, I made an exception. SACWN became my client and for almost 6 years I have organized events, written the newsletter, and handled the membership and administrative tasks. I do similar task for all of my clients, however for most I'm not producing events, but meetings, conferences, conventions, and trade shows. The business had grown, I now have three employees and have decided to focus on "trade association" clients. So in April, I gave the SACWN Steering Committee notice that I would not be renewing the contract when it came due on June 30th.

A lot of people have helped me with SACWN and deserve special thanks. First, my partner, Carol, has been my strongest supporter in every way imaginable, both for the sold out events and the ones that no one came to. She has lugged tons of food, drink, and materials, cooked her heart out for 5 years at the Gatherings, and handled everything from newsletter mailings to event registration. She is a wonderful partner. Thank you, my love.

Then there are the many women who came to events to support SACWN over the years. Thanks to you all. The women who attended the Gatherings at Camp Augusta each year, gave me such joy. Thanks to the many "helpers". You know who you are! The biggest of thanks to Lucia, Karen, Yvonne, Nancy, Danielle, Maka, Joyce and the many other special women who helped make the years precious.

May the next stretch of our journey be the easiest and happiest yet!







7485 RUSH RIVER DRIVE, #710-300  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

